Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

Pastor's Greeting

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Invocation: (*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*)

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b*

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may love You and magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Exhortation *Psalm 51:1-4; 15-17*

P: Have mercy on me, O God; according to Your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

C: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

P: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C: For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken Spirit; a broken and contrite heart, God, you will not despise.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

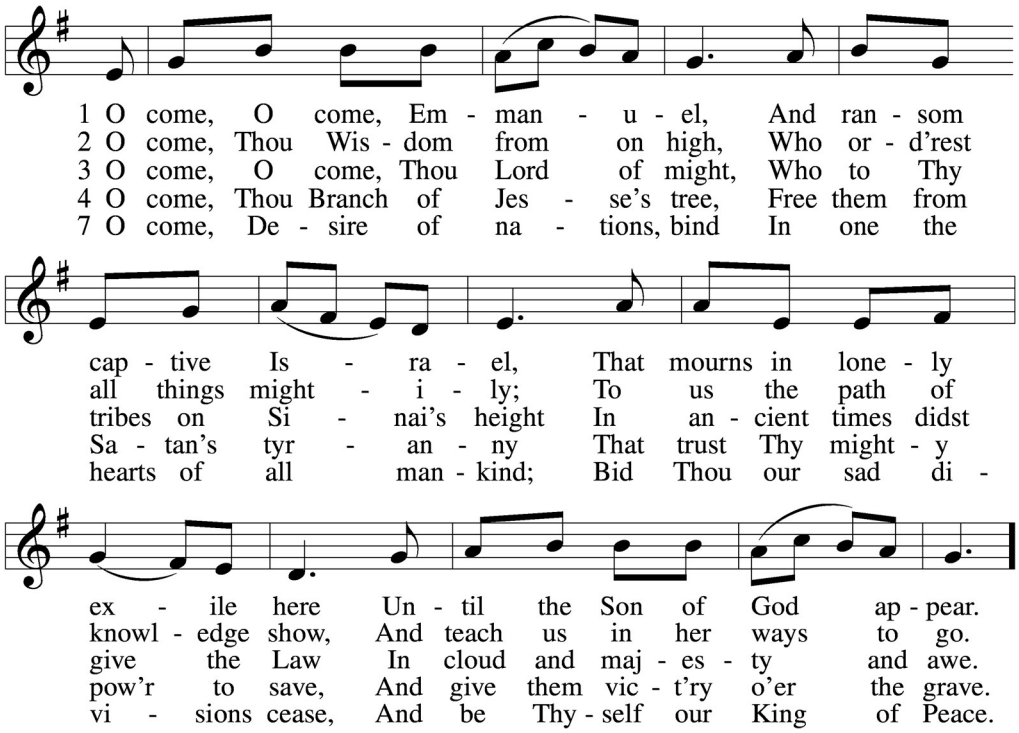
ABSOLUTION

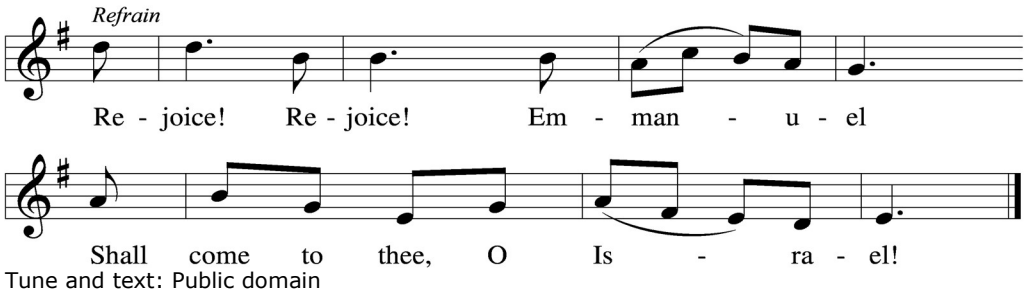
John 20:21

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN O COME, O COME EMMANUEL *LSB 357 STS.1-4,7*





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THE KYRIE *LSB 168*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

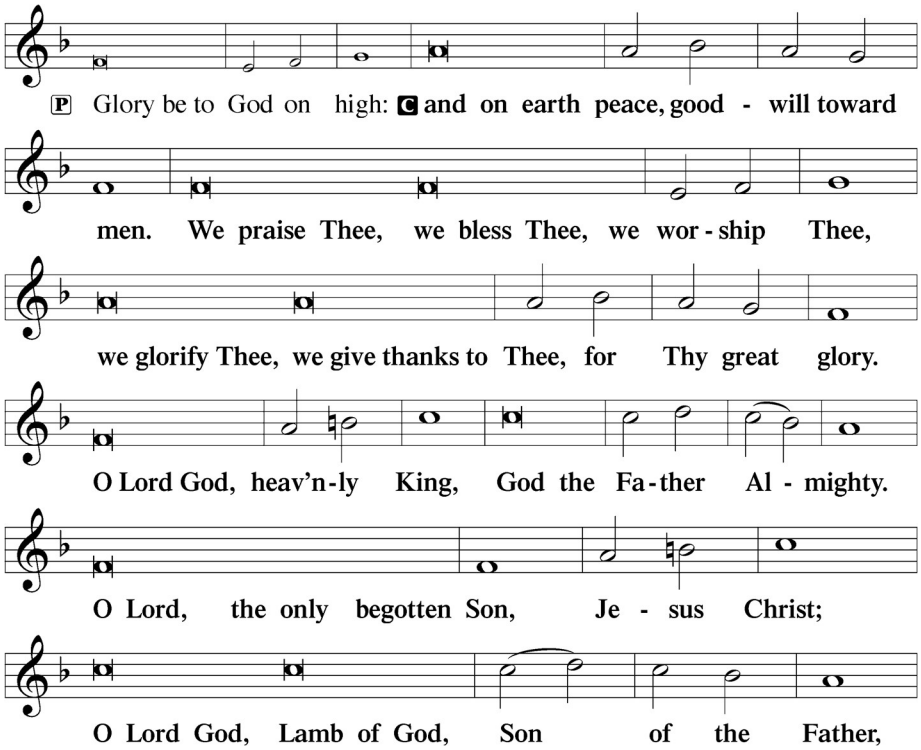
P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

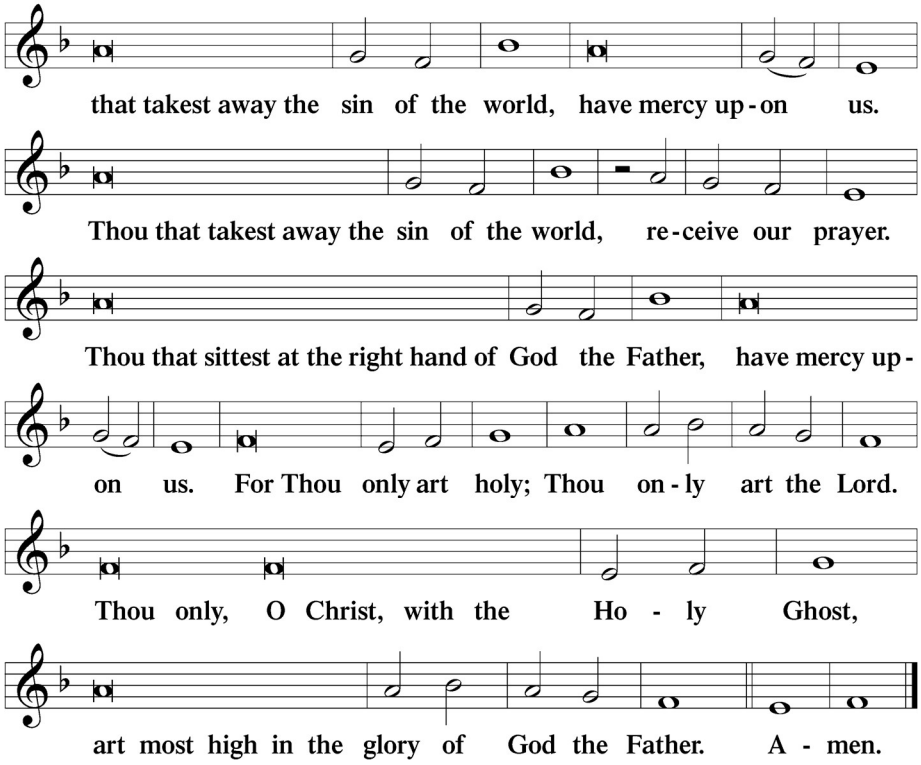
C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 187* *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray*: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11

Reader: Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever

you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9a, Psalm 118:26a*

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

C: Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

HYMN **WHAT CHILD IS THIS** ***LSB 370 STS.1-3***

Text and tune: Public domain

The Epistle Reading From the Book of Romans 16:25-27

Reader: Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

P: A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 1:6–8, 39-56

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

P: In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

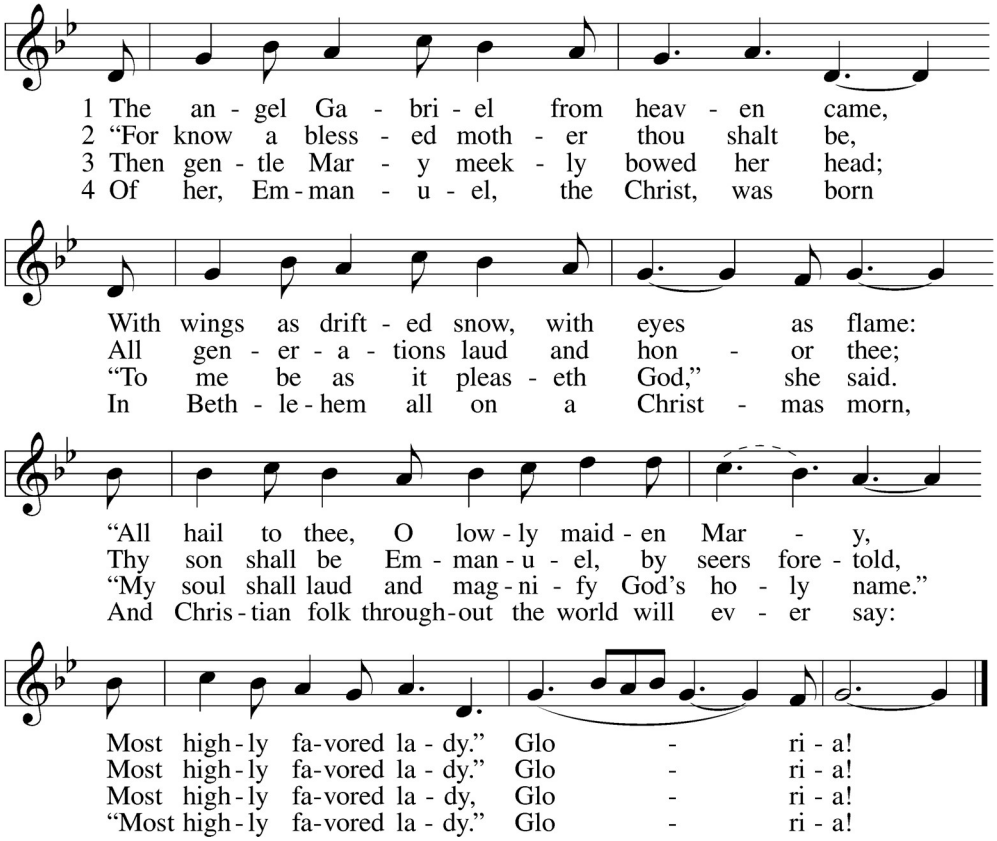
And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You O Christ!

SERMON HYMN THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME LSB 356 STS.1-4



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SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come.
Amen.

OFFERTORY

As we celebrate the holy gifts and blessings God has given to us, please pray concerning your first fruits offering of thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer requests may be submitted online at www.FamilyofChristLutheranAZ.org or emailed to Pastor@familyofchristlutheranaz.org or Prayer@familyofchristlutheranaz.org)

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: O Most High God, You have favored us in the incarnation of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary. In everything, let it be to us according to Your Word. Give us faith to believe that nothing is impossible with You, and so to pray boldly in childlike confidence. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: O Most High, You have revealed in Christ Jesus the mystery kept secret for long ages, now made known to all nations through the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures. According to Your eternal command, give us faithful preachers of Your Gospel to bring about the obedience of faith. Bless our Synod president, **Rev. Matthew Harrison**; our District president, **Rev. Jamison Hardy,** our Circuit visitor, **Rev. Nick Wirtz**, and all pastors in Christ. Strengthen Your Holy Church in every place. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Most High, hear our prayers on behalf of our nation, its president, all legislators and judges, and those newly elected to serve. Preserve their lives and guide their actions for the good of our people. Give peace among the nations of the earth, and preserve us from pestilence and famine, war and bloodshed, sedition, rebellion and every evil. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: O Most High, grant all women with child and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings. Look with compassion on the lonely, the depressed and the despairing. Grant healing to the sick and give peace to the anxious and dying *especially Gerri, Inge, Carrie, Lisa, Rev. Nick Wirtz,* _____. Comfort all who mourn, *especially Pastor Peter Spallek, Dave and Nettie*, _____ _____ with the certain hope of the resurrection. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Most High, grant that all who receive Your Son's holy body and precious blood may do so in repentance and faith and in the unity of a true confession. Work in us this Christmas a love and desire for Your blessed Sacrament. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Most High, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Key of David and the scepter of the house of Israel. By His death, He has opened the kingdom of heaven and closed the gates of hell for all who trust in Him. By His resurrection, He has rescued the prisoners who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Collect

P: *Let us pray*: Gracious Father, as we wait for the return of Your beloved Son to judge the living and the dead, keep us vigilant so that our hearts would be ever ready to receive Him in honor and joy with words of acclaim Hosanna, blessed is Him who comes in the Name of our God. Thank you for gathering us in this day to be fed by Your Word and by Your Son's very Body and Blood. Let Your peace be upon our hearts embracing everything You have taught us so that we may bear the fruits of faith in our lives. Grant that the Light of Christ shine before us to the glorify of Your Holy name this we pray through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever:

All: Amen.

Benedicamus *LSB 218*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Benediction *LSB 228*

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN **JOY TO THE WORLD** ***LBS 387 STS.1-4***

Text and tune: Public domain

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Serving at Family of Christ

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Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

12/20– 12/27

Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

11:00AM Bible Study on Luther's Large Catechism

Thursday, December 24th

5:00PM Christmas Eve Family Service

10:00PM Christmas Eve Service of the Light

Next Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

No Bible Study this Sunday

PLEASE NOTE: *Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer

Thank you to all who donated to La Estancia Nursing Home. Three + boxes of socks, games, puzzles, books and pens/pencils/crayons were delivered on Friday December 18th. The residents will have a Merry Christmas! Please keep them all in your prayers.